

Master Gardener Program Basics

Master Gardener Intern: Upon completion of the Master Gardener Class and passing the final exam with at least a 70%, participants will become Interns. Interns have 2 years to become certified. Hours are to be reported **15 minutes or quarter (¼) hour increments**. This will look like .25 (15 min), .5 (30 min), or .75 (45 min) when reporting minutes.

Master Gardener Certification: Upon completion of the volunteer commitment of at least 40 volunteer hours, Interns will receive a certificate verifying that the participant has completed the requirements of the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program.

Current Certification Levels: The numbers in () show how many additional hours needed to achieve the new level.

Award	Cumulative Volunteer	Cumulative Educational
Master Gardener	40	40
Advanced Master Gardener	65 (25)	50 (10)
Bronze	200 (135)	60 (10)
Silver	500 (300)	75 (15)
Gold	1000 (500)	100 (25)
Platinum	6000	350

After Gold is achieved, you will receive a new badge every additional 1000 volunteer hours and 50 education hours. For example: Gold 2,000/150, Gold 3,000/200, etc. Once you reach 6,000 volunteer and 350 education, you reach Platinum Status. That continues on like to Gold Status (new status after every 1000 volunteer hours and 50 education hours.)

Active Status: Once an individual has completed the necessary requirements and is certified as a Master Gardener, this does not mean he/she is a Master Gardener for life. Master Gardeners must recertify each year to remain on the “active” list and maintain the Master Gardener title. Master Gardener Recertification is achieved by fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Volunteering a minimum of twelve (12) volunteer hours each year, and
2. Completing a minimum of six (6) education hours
3. Yearly signing new Master Gardener Application and Agreement Form

The Master Gardener Reporting Year starts January 1 and ends December 31.

Recommendations: As Master Gardeners and Interns, your goal is to provide non-biased information to the general public with no intended endorsement of specific products, companies, or services. Master Gardeners are to make recommendations only in the area of home horticulture. Master Gardeners should follow published Purdue recommendations when giving pesticide (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide) recommendations (see Pest Management Information Policy). Questions related to cultural practices and problems not specifically covered by Purdue recommendations should be referred to the local Cooperative Extension office. Questions concerning commercial crops or plants are also to be referred to the local Educator.